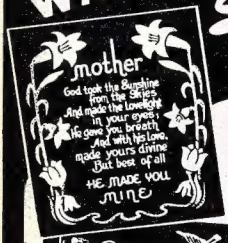
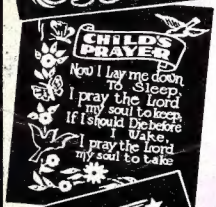
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
MAR.
NO. 26
10c
BIG TOWN
NEW STORIES of TV's HIT SHOW!
NEVER MIND ME, INSPECTOR! THE NITRO GANG IS GOING TO BLOW UP THE BIG TOWN TUNNEL!

DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottoes





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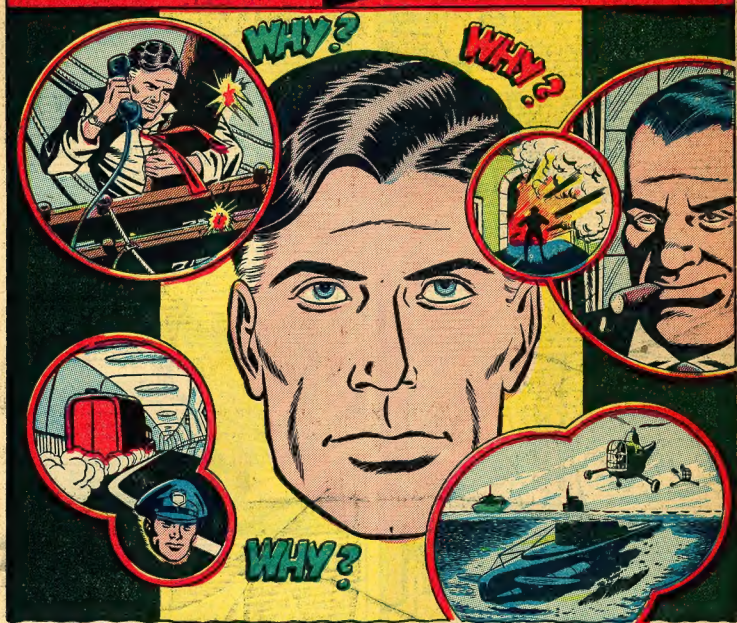
BIG TOWN



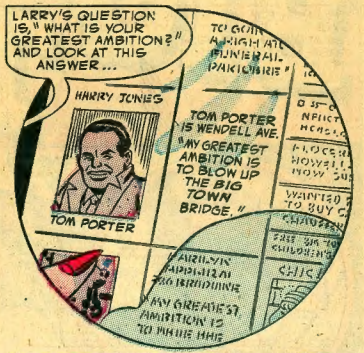
WHY WOULD ANYONE DARE TO ADMIT THAT HIS "GREATEST AMBITION" IS TO BLOW UP THE BIG TOWN BRIDGE? THIS BIZARRE QUESTION STARTED CRACK NEWSMAN STEVE WILSON OFF ON A DOGGED HUNT FOR A GRIM GANG OF DYNAMITERS WHO PLOTTED TO STEAL RARE RADIO-ACTIVE SUBSTANCES WORTH TWO MILLION DOLLARS! IN--

BIG TOWN BLOCKBUSTER

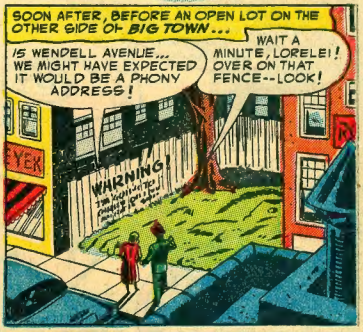
BIG TOWN, No. 26, Mar.-April, 1954. Published bi-monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. Entire contents copyrighted 1954 by National Comics Publications, Inc. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

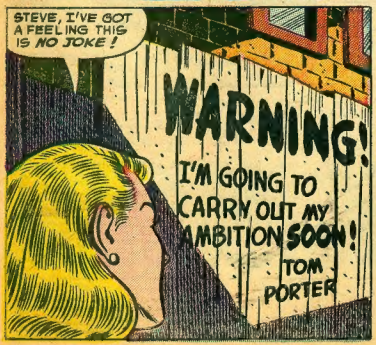
Printed in U.S.A.

IN STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
STEVE, HAVE YOU SEEN LARRY HOGAN'S "QUESTION OF THE DAY" COLUMN TODAY?
NOT YET, LORELEI! WHY?


LARRY'S QUESTION IS, "WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST AMBITION?" AND LOOK AT THIS ANSWER...
HARRY JONES
TOM PORTER
TOM PORTER IS WENDELL AVE.
"MY GREATEST AMBITION IS TO BLOW UP THE BIG TOWN BRIDGE."

IT'S PROBABLY JUST A JOKE, LORELEI--BUT WE NEED A GOOD STORY--AND THERE MAY BE SOMETHING BEHIND THIS WACKY AMBITION! I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!
YOU MEAN WE ARE!


SOON AFTER, BEFORE AN OPEN LOT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BIG TOWN...
IS WENDELL AVENUE... WE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED IT WOULD BE A PHONY ADDRESS!
WAIT A MINUTE, LORELEI! OVER ON THAT FENCE--LOOK!
WARNING

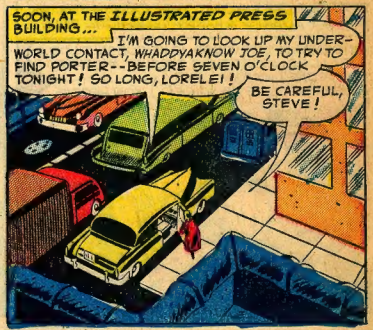

STEVE, I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS IS NO JOKE!
WARNING!
I'M GOING TO CARRY OUT MY AMBITION SOON!
TOM PORTER

THE NEXT DAY, STEVE CALLS ON HIS FRIEND, POLICE INSPECTOR CALLAHAN...
WE'VE GOT A NET OUT FOR ANYONE WHO ANSWERS THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS PORTER FELLOW, STEVE! IT'S ALL WE CAN DO NOW!
SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTER, INSPECTOR--FOR YOU!

IT'S FROM TOM PORTER! HE SAYS "THE TIME IS TONIGHT! THE HOUR IS 7 P.M. FOR MY GREAT AMBITION! YOU CAN TRY AND STOP ME--BUT YOU NEVER WILL!"
GREAT THUNDER! THAT GUY SOUNDS DANGEROUS, INSPECTOR!

AS A GRIM STEVE AND LORELEI LEAVE POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
YOU WANT ME TO DO THE STORY ON PORTER'S LATEST NOTE-THREAT, STEVE--WHILE YOU TRY TO FIND HIM? BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM!
I KNOW SEVERAL THINGS ABOUT HIM!

HE WANTS TO BLOW UP A BRIDGE! THAT MEANS HE'S GOT DYNAMITE--PLENTY OF IT! IT ALSO COULD MEAN THAT HE'S A NITRO MAN--WHICH IS UNDERWORLD SLANG FOR A CROOK WHO SPECIALIZES IN BLOWING SAFES!


SOON, AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS BUILDING...
I'M GOING TO LOOK UP MY UNDERWORLD CONTACT, WHADDYAKNOW JOE, TO TRY TO FIND PORTER--BEFORE SEVEN O'CLOCK TONIGHT! SO LONG, LORELEI!
BE CAREFUL, STEVE!

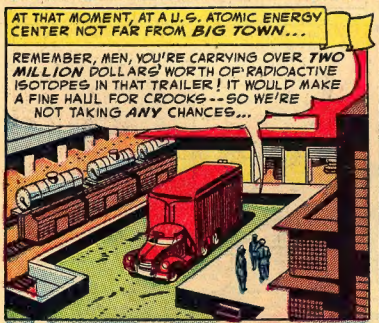
MINUTES LATER, IN THE LOBBY OF THE NOTORIOUS GRAND HOTEL -- BEE-HIVE OF UNDERWORLD ACTIVITIES IN BIG TOWN...
GOSH, I CAN'T TALK TO YOU NOW, MR. WILSON! I'D GET MARKED DOWN AS A STOOLIE!
ER--TAKE ME UP TO THE SIXTH, WILL YOU, JOE!

AS THE ELEVATOR DOORS CLANG BEHIND THE DUO AND THE ELEVATOR CREAKS UPWARD...
YOU CAN TALK NOW, JOE! WE'RE ALONE IN HERE!
OKAY, MR. WILSON--I DID HEAR SOME INFO ABOUT A NITRO GANG--

AND THE TALK IS THAT VEGGMAN CHARLEY TOOK A HOUSE AT THE END OF HARTFORD ROAD--FOR THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!
THANKS, JOE! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU FOR A LEAD!
THIS COULD BE A WILD GOOSE CHASE, BUT WHADDYAKNOW JOE HAS BEEN PRETTY ACCURATE BEFORE! HARTFORD ROAD'S NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE!
REAR EXIT
GRAND HOTEL
TEN MINUTES LATER, NEAR A SUBURBAN HOUSE SURROUNDED BY A TALL CONCRETE WALL...
THIS IS IT! BUT HOW AM I GOING TO GET A LOOK INSIDE THERE--WITHOUT EXCITING SUSPICION? HMM! GOT AN IDEA ...
STRIPPING OFF HIS COAT, THE CRACK NEWSHAWK SWIFTLY MOUNTS A HANDY TELEPHONE POLE...
WHOEVER'S IN THAT HOUSE, IF HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO CLOSE, MIGHT THINK I'M JUST ANOTHER TELEPHONE LINEMAN...EH? VEGGMAN CHARLEY'S VOICE!
NOW HERE'S FINAL ORDERS ON THE ROBBERY--
ME AN' PETE WILL HANDLE THE FAR SIDE O' THE BIG TOWN TUNNEL...
THE TUNNEL? I'VE GOT TO NOTIFY CALLAHAN AT ONCE! IF ONLY I COULD CUT IN ON THIS TELEPHONE WIRE ...!
ON A SUDDEN, BOLD INSPIRATION, STEVE PULLS OPEN THE EQUIPMENT BOX UNDER HIM ON THE POLE...
THIS IS WHAT I WANT!
HEY, WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
CREAK!
SECONDS LATER...
THAT'S NO TELEPHONE MAN--IT'S STEVE WILSON! DRILL HIM!
NEVER MIND ME, INSPECTOR! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THE NITRO GANG FROM BLOWING UP BIG TOWN TUNNEL!

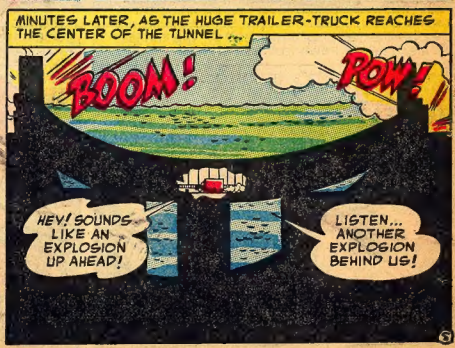
THE NEXT INSTANT...
STEVE! WHAT DID YOU SAY? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU--IT'S A BAD CONNECTION...
GOT HIM!
BAM! BAM!

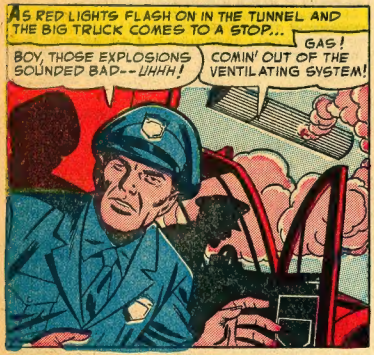
MEANWHILE, IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
OPERATOR, THIS IS INSPECTOR CALLAHAN! TRACE THE CALL THAT JUST CAME IN HERE! HURRY! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!


AT THAT MOMENT, AT A U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY CENTER NOT FAR FROM BIG TOWN...
REMEMBER, MEN, YOU'RE CARRYING OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES IN THAT TRAILER! IT WOULD MAKE A FINE HAUL FOR CROOKS--SO WE'RE NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES...

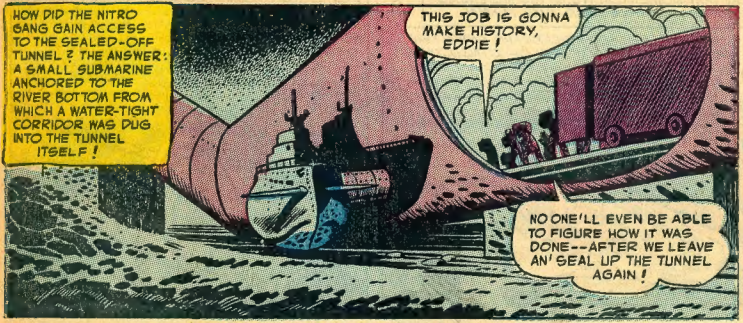
DUE TO THE THREATS AGAINST BIG TOWN BRIDGE, YOU'LL GO THROUGH BIG TOWN TUNNEL! THAT'S A CHANGE OF ROUTE! DON'T FORGET IT!

AS THE HOUR OF SEVEN STRIKES...
SO FAR SO GOOD, EDDIE! WE'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE--SEVEN BELLS AND WE'RE CROSSING BIG TOWN RIVER--THROUGH THE TUNNEL!


MINUTES LATER, AS THE HUGE TRAILER-TRUCK REACHES THE CENTER OF THE TUNNEL...
BOOM!
POW!
HEY! SOUNDS LIKE AN EXPLOSION UP AHEAD!
LISTEN... ANOTHER EXPLOSION BEHIND US!

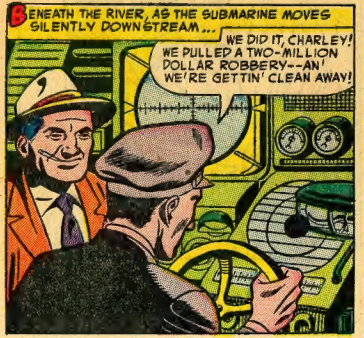

AS RED LIGHTS FLASH ON IN THE TUNNEL AND THE BIG TRUCK COMES TO A STOP...
BOY, THOSE EXPLOSIONS SOUNDED BAD--UHHH!
GAS! COMIN' OUT OF THE VENTILATING SYSTEM!

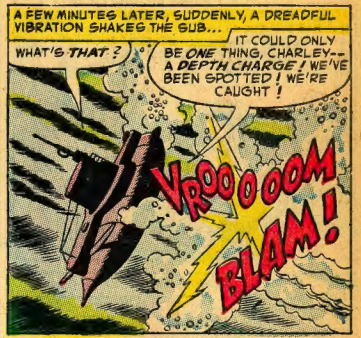
WITH THE TUNNEL SEALED OFF BY THE BLASTS AT BOTH ENDS, AND THE TRUCK TRAPPED WITHIN IT, AN AMAZING SIGHT APPEARS...
KEEP YOUR GAS-MASK TIGHT! GET THOSE LEAD CONTAINERS OUT NOW! HUSTLE!


HOW DID THE NITRO GANG GAIN ACCESS TO THE SEALED-OFF TUNNEL? THE ANSWER: A SMALL SUBMARINE ANCHORED TO THE RIVER BOTTOM FROM WHICH A WATER-TIGHT CORRIDOR WAS DUG INTO THE TUNNEL ITSELF!
THIS JOB IS GONNA MAKE HISTORY, EDDIE!
NO ONE'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO FIGURE HOW IT WAS DONE--AFTER WE LEAVE AN' SEAL UP THE TUNNEL AGAIN!

MEANWHILE, THE BIG TOWN END OF THE TUNNEL IS A SCENE OF FEVERISH ACTIVITY...
THE EXPLOSION WAS LIKE A BLOCKBUSTER! HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER THAT BIG TRAILER-TRUCK ENTERED THE TUNNEL!

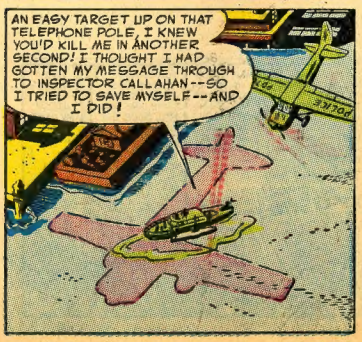
SOON AFTER, WHEN THE WAY INTO THE TUNNEL IS AT LAST CLEARED...
THIS IS FANTASTIC! SOMEBODY GASSED THESE MEN--AND STOLE THE CONTENTS OF THEIR TRUCK--BUT THERE IS NO ONE ELSE IN THIS ENTIRE TUNNEL!


BENEATH THE RIVER, AS THE SUBMARINE MOVES SILENTLY DOWNSTREAM...
WE DID IT, CHARLEY! WE PULLED A TWO-MILLION DOLLAR ROBBERY--AN' WE'RE GETTIN' CLEAN AWAY!


A FEW MINUTES LATER, SUDDENLY, A DREADFUL VIBRATION SHAKES THE SUB...
WHAT'S THAT?
IT COULD ONLY BE ONE THING, CHARLEY--A DEPTH CHARGE! WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED! WE'RE CAUGHT!
VROOOOOM
BLAM!

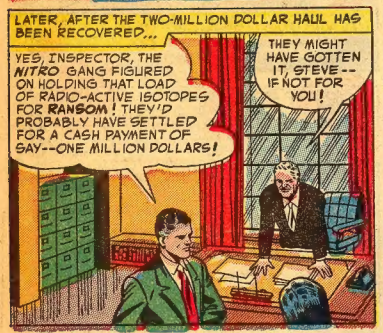
THEN--AS THE TRAPPED SUBMARINE IS 'BLOWN' TO THE SURFACE...
KEEP YOUR HANDS UP--MOVE ALONG THAT DECK!
THE RIVER PATROL! AND LOOK--!

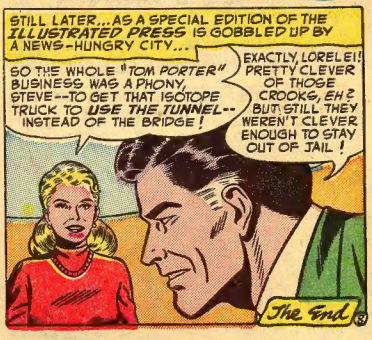
IN SHOCKED ASTONISHMENT, THE SULLEN GANG STARES UPON A STRONG, GRIM FIGURE AT THE PATROL BOAT'S BOW...
STEVE WILSON!
BUT--
NO, YOU DIDN'T KILL ME--NOT QUITE!


AN EASY TARGET UP ON THAT TELEPHONE POLE, I KNEW YOU'D KILL ME IN ANOTHER SECOND! I THOUGHT I HAD GOTTEN MY MESSAGE THROUGH TO INSPECTOR CALLAHAN--SO I TRIED TO SAVE MYSELF--AND I DID!

I NOTICED A PILE OF SOFT SAND ON THE GROUND NEAR THE POLE--AND JUMPED FOR THAT! IT BROKE MY FALL! I WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS FOR A WHILE--

WHEN I CAME TO, IT WAS TOO LATE TO STOP THE EXPLOSIONS AT THE TUNNEL--BUT I HAD HEARD ENOUGH OF YOUR PLAN TO CONTACT THE RIVER PATROL--AND START A SEARCH FOR YOUR SUBMARINE!
MAYBE WE ARE LICKED, WILSON--


LATER, AFTER THE TWO-MILLION DOLLAR HAUL HAS BEEN RECOVERED...
YES, INSPECTOR, THE NITRO GANG FIGURED ON HOLDING THAT LOAD OF RADIO-ACTIVE ISOTOPES FOR RANSOM! THEY'D PROBABLY HAVE SETTLED FOR A CASH PAYMENT OF SAY--ONE MILLION DOLLARS!
THEY MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN IT, STEVE--IF NOT FOR YOU!


STILL LATER...AS A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS IS GOBBLED UP BY A NEWS-HUNGRY CITY...
SO THE WHOLE "TOM PORTER" BUSINESS WAS A PHONY, STEVE--TO GET THAT ISOTOPE TRUCK TO USE THE TUNNEL--INSTEAD OF THE BRIDGE!
EXACTLY LORELEI! PRETTY CLEVER OF THOSE CROOKS, EH? BUT STILL THEY WEREN'T CLEVER ENOUGH TO STAY OUT OF JAIL!
The End

ADVERTISEMENT

FEARLESS FOSDICK by Al Capp

EGAD!! ONE MUST BE DETECTIVE FOSDICK-SO THE OTHER MUST BE SMUDGER-ANYFACE THE WORLD'S TRICKIEST CRIMINAL!!
I'M FOSDICK
AHA!! I'VE GOT YOU THERE!! HOW CAN YOU BE FOSDICK, WHEN I AM? AND, ON THE SALARY THEY PAY ME-HARDLY ONE FOSDICK CAN LIVE!!
YOU ARE NOT FOSDICK, FOSDICK!! TURN IN YOUR BADGE!!
TURN IN YOUR HEAD, ANYFACE!! I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT ME BECAUSE I USE WILDROOT CREAM-OIL TO KEEP MY HAIR NEAT-BUT YOURS IS A MESS!!
@!*#@ IF I'D THOUGHT OF WILDROOT CREAM-OIL I'D HAVE AVOIDED ARREST!!
YOU COULD'VE AVOIDED LOOSE DANDRUFF, TOO!! SAME GOES FOR YOU, CHIEF. GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL CHARLIE!
THAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL MY NAME IS IRVING!

ADVERTISEMENT
EGYPT SURE IS AN INTERESTING COUNTRY-
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT IS A PYRAMID! YOU HAVE NOTHING LIKE IT IN AMERICA!
GEE! WHAT'S THAT THING?
I KNOW-THAT'S THE SPHINX-
YES, THE SPHINX! YOU HAVE NO WONDER LIKE IT IN AMERICA!
I'M TIRED OF THIS GUY'S BRAGGING-
DUBBLE BUBBLE WILL FIX HIM!
ATTABOY, PUD! HE'S NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
WONDER OF WONDERS! WE HAVE NOTHING SO GREAT IN EGYPT!
YOU SAID IT, GUIDE! GREAT! WONDERFUL! THAT'S DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE FLEER DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
YOU'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING LIKE IT EITHER, KIDS-TRY SOME!
YES, KIDS-YOU'LL LIKE ITS BUBBLES AND SECRET, SWEET TASTE!
YOU'LL LIKE THE COMICS, FACTS, N' FORTUNES, TOO!
1¢
DUBBLE BUBBLE
HAVE FUN WITH GUM!
FRANK H. FLEER CORP., PHILA. 41, PA.

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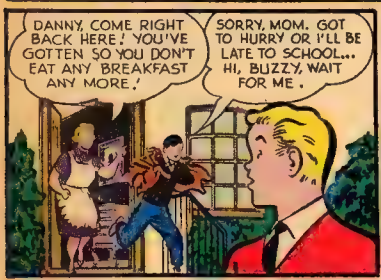
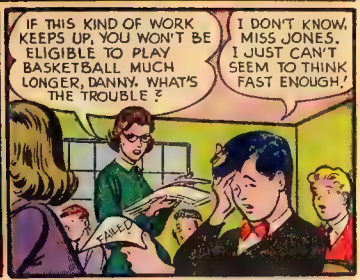
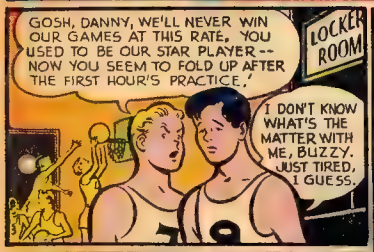
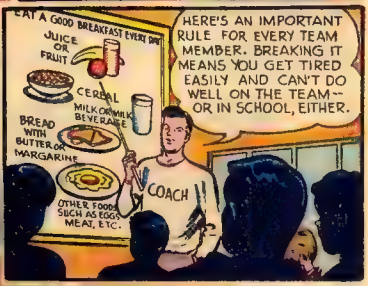
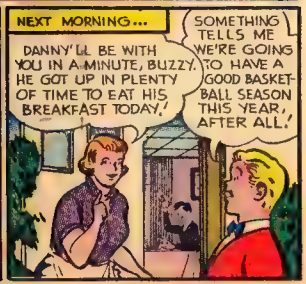
BUZZY says "START THE DAY OFF RIGHT!"


DANNY, COME RIGHT BACK HERE! YOU'VE GOTTEN SO YOU DON'T EAT ANY BREAKFAST ANY MORE.'
SORRY, MOM. GOT TO HURRY OR I'LL BE LATE TO SCHOOL... HI, BUZZY, WAIT FOR ME.


IF THIS KIND OF WORK KEEPS UP, YOU WON'T BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY BASKETBALL MUCH LONGER, DANNY. WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
I DON'T KNOW, MISS JONES. I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO THINK FAST ENOUGH.
FAILED


GOSH, DANNY, WE'LL NEVER WIN OUR GAMES AT THIS RATE. YOU USED TO BE OUR STAR PLAYER -- NOW YOU SEEM TO FOLD UP AFTER THE FIRST HOUR'S PRACTICE.'
LOCKER ROOM
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME, BUZZY. JUST TIRED, I GUESS.


EAT A GOOD BREAKFAST EVERY DAY
JUICE OR FRUIT
CEREAL
MILK OR MILK BEVERAGE
BREAD WITH BUTTER OR MARGARINE
OTHER FOODS SUCH AS EGGS, MEAT, ETC.
HERE'S AN IMPORTANT RULE FOR EVERY TEAM MEMBER. BREAKING IT MEANS YOU GET TIRED EASILY AND CAN'T DO WELL ON THE TEAM -- OR IN SCHOOL, EITHER.
COACH

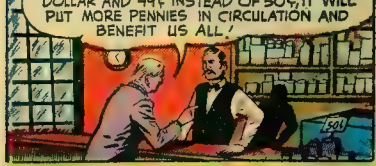

NEXT MORNING...
DANNY'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE, BUZZY. HE GOT UP IN PLENTY OF TIME TO EAT HIS BREAKFAST TODAY.'
SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD BASKETBALL SEASON THIS YEAR, AFTER ALL.'

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

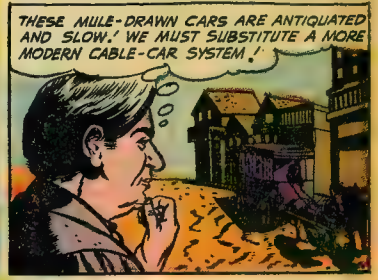
HEADLINE HEROES!

HAVING MADE A FORTUNE AS A BUILDING CONTRACTOR, ONLY TO LOSE IT IN A COTTON-GROWING INVESTMENT, NELSON BOUGHT THE FORT WAYNE *SENTINEL* IN 1879 -- AND IN HIS FIRST CRUSADE, FOUGHT TO HAVE THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM TRANSFERRED FROM PRIVATE TO MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

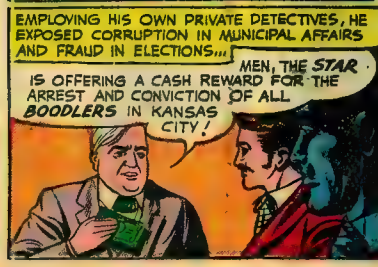
A YEAR LATER, NELSON SOLD THE *SENTINEL*, MOVED TO KANSAS CITY AND PUT OUT THE KANSAS CITY *STAR*. THE PRICE WAS 2¢ BUT BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF PENNIES IN CIRCULATION, THE PAPER DIDN'T FARE WELL... UNTIL NELSON CONCEIVED A BRILLIANT IDEA...


IF YOU MERCHANTS WILL MARK YOUR GOODS AT 99¢ INSTEAD OF A DOLLAR AND 49¢ INSTEAD OF 50¢, IT WILL PUT MORE PENNIES IN CIRCULATION AND BENEFIT US ALL!
50¢

DESPITE THREATS FROM CITY POLITICIANS AND GRAFTERS, HE CAMPAIGNED AGAINST THE CITY-HELD MONOPOLY OF THE STREET RAILWAY SYSTEM.



EMPLOYING HIS OWN PRIVATE DETECTIVES, HE EXPOSED CORRUPTION IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND FRAUD IN ELECTIONS...



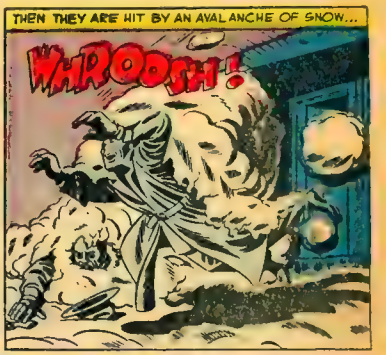
OTHER WORTHWHILE CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED BY NELSON RESULTED IN PAVING OF CITY STREETS, TREE-LINED BOULEVARDS AND PARKS, AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOMES FOR MIDDLE CLASS INCOME EARNERS...

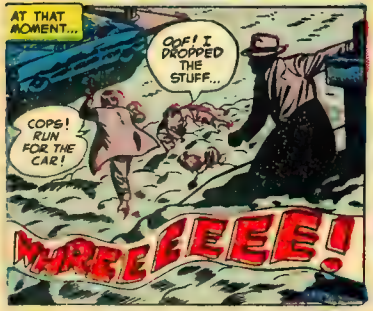
BIG TOWN
BIG TOWN!... A CITY OF A THOUSAND THROBBING DRAMAS! SOMETIMES THE DRAMAS ARE BIG -- ABOUT BIG PEOPLE -- AND THEY MAKE BOLD, FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES! AND SOMETIMES THE DRAMAS ARE SMALL -- ABOUT LITTLE PEOPLE, AND THESE TOO, MAKE HEADLINES... SUCH AS THE DAY STEVE WILSON, OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, FORMED A TEEN-AGE CITY ROOM, NOT KNOWING THAT IT WAS HIS FIRST STEP IN CRACKING A RING OF RACKETEERS!
THE NEWSBOY BRIGADE!
NEWSBOY BRIGADE EDITORIAL
YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT, BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, IS TO TRACK DOWN "BIG" JOE MORGAN...
PRESS
TEEN-AGE PAGE

JUST AS DUSK FALLS OVER BIG TOWN, A BLUE SEDAN ROARS THROUGH THE STREETS, CHASED BY A SCREECHING POLICE CAR...
THEY'RE PART OF THE "BIG" JOE MORGAN GANG! THIS TIME WE'VE GOT 'EM COLD!
IN THE CAR RIDES STEVE WILSON, ACE NEWSMAN OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! I'LL GET THEIR TIRES!
NO--WAIT! THOSE KIDS UP THERE IN THE STREET! YOU MIGHT HIT ONE OF THEM! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. WILSON! SLOW DOWN, MIKE! ONE OF THOSE BOYS MIGHT RUN IN FRONT OF US!
WE'RE SLOWING DOWN--BUT THOSE CROOKS HAVE STEPPED ON IT--AND ARE BARRELING ON THROUGH!
THEN, SEVERAL MOMENTS LATER, AND A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...
SALE
WELL, WE LOST 'EM!
THERE GOES ANOTHER CHANCE TO NAB "BIG" JOE MORGAN!
ICE
AFTERWARDS, AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
CONFOUND IT, LORELEI! WHAT WERE THOSE KIDS DOING OUT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET, ANYWAY? HAVEN'T THEY GOT ANYWHERE ELSE TO PLAY?
THAT'S AN OLD HEADACHE WITH EVERY BIG CITY, STEVE! AND UP TO NOW, NOBODY SEEMS TO HAVE SATISFACTORILY SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF WHERE KIDS CAN AND CANNOT PLAY!
LORELEI! I'VE GOT IT! MAYBE WE--AND THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS--CAN DO OUR PART IN HELPING THEM! MAYBE WE CAN GIVE THEM JOBS ON WEEK ENDS!
I DON'T FOLLOW YOU, STEVE!
SUPPOSING WE START A WEEKLY TEEN-AGE PAGE IN THE PAPER! IT COULD BE WRITTEN AND EDITED BY BIG TOWN'S TEEN-AGERS... HIGH SCHOOL KIDS WHO WILL EVENTUALLY GO INTO JOURNALISM OR OTHER FORMS OF WRITING! IT WOULD BE A START! IT WOULD OFFER THEM SOMETHING TO DO, AND AT THE SAME TIME WOULD HELP THEM ON AN EARLY CAREER!
2

THE NEXT DAY THE NEWS ACE VISITS VARIOUS BIG TOWN HIGH SCHOOLS..
...SO WHAT WE'D LIKE ARE THE NAMES OF YOUR PUPILS WHO EXCEL IN GRAMMAR AND WRITING, AND WHO MIGHT LIKE BEING NEWSPAPERMEN ON WEEK ENDS!
CERTAINLY, MR. WILSON! I HAVE AT LEAST FOUR IN MY CLASS!
LATER THAT AFTERNOON, THE "NEWSBOY BRIGADE" MEETS AT STEVE'S OFFICE...
...WE'LL ATTEMPT TO PUT EACH PERSON IN HIS PROPER PLACE ON THE PAPER! SOME OF YOU WILL BE REPORTERS, OTHERS WILL REWRITE, AND SOME WILL PROOFREAD!
I'M JIMMY HARRIS, MR. WILSON! I'M GOING TO BE A REPORTER-- JUST LIKE YOU! MY DAD SAYS YOU'RE THE BEST REPORTER IN TOWN!
THANKS, JIMMY... TO YOU AND YOUR DAD!
THAT WEEK END, THE TEEN-AGE CITY ROOM BUZZES WITH ACTIVITY...
THERE YOU ARE, LORELEI--OUR NEWSBOY BRIGADE! THEY'VE CERTAINLY TAKEN TO THE JOB!
IT'S A PROMISING START, STEVE!
NEWSBOY
NOW THAT THAT'S SET, WE CAN'T FORGET OUR OTHER--AND BIGGEST--STORY! REMEMBER, I'M STILL WORKING ON THE MORGAN MOB CASE! I'M GOING OUT FOR AWHILE!
BE CAREFUL, STEVE! THOSE GANGSTERS WILL STOP AT NOTHING!
DURING THE NEXT HOUR, THE CRACK NEWSMAN WALKS THE STREETS, UNAWARE OF A SMALL FIGURE THAT TRAILS BEHIND...
DRUG
SUDDENLY, FROM A NEARBY JEWELRY STORE COMES THE HARSH RATTLE OF GUNFIRE...
THE JEWELRY STORE'S BEING ROBBED! MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT--IF I CAN GET UP TO THAT LOW-SLANTED ROOF!
BLAM! BAM!
DIAM
BOUGHT

MOMENTS LATER, THE THUGS RACE FROM THE STORE...
NOW...
WE GOT THE STUFF! MAKE FOR THE CAR!


THEN THEY ARE HIT BY AN AVALANCHE OF SNOW...
WHROOSH!


AT THAT MOMENT...
OOF! I DROPPED THE STUFF...
COPS! RUN FOR THE CAR!
WHEEEEEE!

BY THE TIME STEVE DESCENDS TO THE STREET, AND THE POLICE ARRIVE, THE CROOKS HAVE FLED...
THEY GOT AWAY, BOYS! BUT IN THE EXCITEMENT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO RECOVER THE STOLEN GEMS! HERE THEY ARE--
LUCKY YOU WERE NEAR-BY, MR. WILSON!

WHILE IN THE SHADOWS ACROSS THE STREET...
WON'T MR. WILSON BE SURPRISED WHEN HE READS THE TEEN-AGE SECTION AND FINDS OUT THAT I WROTE A STORY ABOUT HOW HE STOPPED A ROBBERY!
COULD YOU DROP ME OFF AT HEADQUARTERS? I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO INSPECTOR CALLAHAN!

LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS...
LIKE YOU, STEVE, I SUSPECT THESE HOODLUMS WERE PART OF THE MORGAN MOB! BUT-- WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE AGAINST MORGAN HIMSELF! AND, ALSO, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HIS HIDEOUT IS!
YES.. THERE ARE A MILLION HIDING PLACES IN BIG TOWN!

MEANWHILE, ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY, THE FIRST TEEN-AGE SECTION APPEARS IN PRINT!
WELL, LORELEI--IT'S SURE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES! LIKE IT?
I SURE DO, STEVE! PARTICULARLY JIMMY HARRIS' FEATURE STORY ON STEVE WILSON AND THE JEWEL ROBBERY!
TEEN-AGE PAGE
SPORTS NEWS
BIG TOWN SCHOOL NEWS
STEVE WILS BREAKS UP HOLD-UP
NICE WORK ON THAT FEATURE STORY, JIMMY! AND, PETE, YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS WERE VERY GOOD! HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET THEM?
JUST CALL ME PETE ELLIS, THE PHOTOG PHENOM, MR. WILSON! ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST LUCKY, I GUESS...
TEEN-A MOVIE A
LIKE YOUR REGULAR PHOTOGRAPHERS, MR. WILSON, I KEEP ON THE MOVE AROUND BIG TOWN, LOOKING FOR NEWS PICTURES! WHEN I SEE SOMETHING I LIKE--CLICK!--I'VE GOT IT ON FILM!
CLICK!
IN THE ENSUING DAYS, THE MORGAN MOB STRIKES AGAIN AND AGAIN--A TRUCK-LOAD OF FURS ARE HI-JACKED ON THE APPROACHES TO BIG TOWN...
DAYTON
DAY
ON
BRAT-TAT-TAT!
BEAT-TAT...
WE GOT THE TIRES--AN' SHE'S STOPPIN'! GET READY TO UNLOAD HER... FAST!
BLAAM!
PRICELESS PAINTINGS ARE STOLEN FROM THE CITY'S MUSEUM...
HAW! NEVER KNEW I'D GO IN FOR FANCY PAINTINGS!
WHEN PAINTINGS BRING BIG DOUGH LIKE THESE WILL, YOU SUDDENLY DEVELOP A TASTE FOR ART!
BRAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!
LATER, AT INSPECTOR CALLAHAN'S OFFICE...
WHAT! THE MORGAN GANG JUST HELD UP THE BANK? THROW A DRAGNET AROUND THE AREA! MAYBE THIS TIME WE CAN NAIL THEM!

SOON AFTERWARDS, STEVE WILSON, ARRIVES AT THE SCENE OF THE BANK ROBBERY...

WE FIGURE THAT ONE OF THE MEN, SOMEHOW, HID INSIDE THE BANK DURING BANKING HOURS--THEN PAVED THE WAY FOR THE REST OF THE GANG TO GET IN LATER ON!

AND THE DRAGNET HAS TURNED UP NOTHING, EH? LOOKS LIKE MORGAN DID IT AGAIN! I THINK I'LL TAKE A LOOK INSIDE!

NOW WHERE COULD SOMEBODY HIDE OUT IN A BANK, AND REMAIN UNSEEN?

THE BOTTOM OF AN ELEVATOR SHAFT! SURE--A MAN COULD FLATTEN HIMSELF OUT DOWN THERE, AND LET HIMSELF OUT AFTER BANKING HOURS! I'LL GO DOWN AND LOOK AROUND!

ELEVATOR

IN THE SHADOWY SHAFT BELOW...

THIS WAS THE HIDING PLACE! WHOEVER HID HERE SMOKED SEVERAL CIGARETTES--AND LEFT A MATCH FOLDER!

THE MATCH FOLDER HAS A NAME AND ADDRESS ON IT! IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY PROVE ANYTHING...BUT I'VE WRAPPED UP MORE THAN ONE STORY ON A HUNCH!

TOM'S OYSTER BAR DINER 113 WATER ST.

LATER, THE NEWSHAWK SPENDS MORE THAN AN HOUR WALKING THE DISTRICT AROUND TOM'S OYSTER BAR DINER--WHEN, SUDDENLY...

WRONG HUNCH I GUESS WAIT A MINUTE, THAT OLD BOAT HOUSE HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR YEARS! I SEE A FAINT LIGHT!

TOM'S

STANDING DOWN THE STREET, YOUNG JIMMY HARRIS--WHO HAS SHADOWED STEVE, SEES THE NEWSMAN'S PLIGHT...

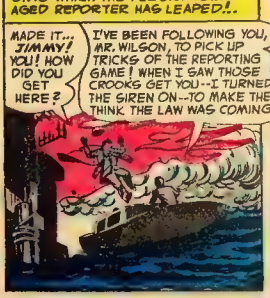
THEY'VE GOT MR. WILSON!

KEEP GOIN', WILSON--INSIDE! NO USE WAITIN' OUT HERE IN THE COLD!

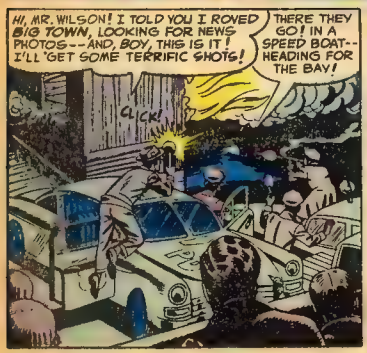
WITH A GUN AT HIS BACK, THE NEWSMAN IS FORCED INSIDE...
"BIG" JOE MORGAN! SO THIS IS THE RAT'S NEST--THE HIDEOUT!
MORGAN! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND US, WILSON... BUT YOU KNOW IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD... DEAD! TIE HIM UP, BOYS... SINK HIM IN THE RIVER!

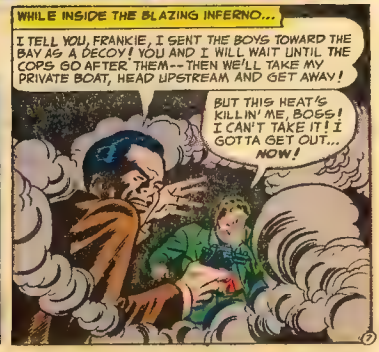
BUT BEFORE THE CROOKS MOVE, STEVE'S FOOT STEALS OUT, KICKING A TABLE LEG, AND...
LOOK OUT!
CRASH!

INSTANTLY, HUNGRY FLAMES LICK AT THE ANCIENT DRY WOOD...
WHREEEEEEEE!
BLAM!
SIRENS! COPS! HEAD FOR THE BOAT!


"SIRENS" YES! FROM A FIRE BOAT ONTO WHICH THE PLUCKY TEEN-AGED REPORTER HAS LEAPED!..
MADE IT... JIMMY! YOU! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU, MR. WILSON, TO PICK UP TRICKS OF THE REPORTING GAME! WHEN I SAW THOSE CROOKS GET YOU--I TURNED THE SIREN ON--TO MAKE THEM THINK THE LAW WAS COMING!

IN FACT, JIMMY--THE POLICE ARE COMING! SQUAD CARS ARE RACING THIS WAY! AND LOOK WHO ELSE IS HERE--PETE ELLIS OF THE NEWSBOY BRIGADE!


HI, MR. WILSON! I TOLD YOU I ROVED BIG TOWN, LOOKING FOR NEWS PHOTOS--AND, BOY, THIS IS IT! I'LL GET SOME TERRIFIC SHOTS!
THERE THEY GO! IN A SPEED BOAT--HEADING FOR THE BAY!
CLICK!


WHILE INSIDE THE BLAZING INFERNO...
I TELL YOU, FRANKIE, I SENT THE BOYS TOWARD THE BAY AS A DECOY! YOU AND I WILL WAIT UNTIL THE COPS GO AFTER THEM--THEN WE'LL TAKE MY PRIVATE BOAT, HEAD UPSTREAM AND GET AWAY!
BUT THIS HEAT'S KILLIN' ME, BOSS! I CAN'T TAKE IT! I GOTTA GET OUT... NOW!

NO YOU DON'T, FRANKIE--YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
BAM!
BAM!
WHILE OUTSIDE, PETE ELLIS' CAMERA CLICKS AWAY...
I CAN'T BE SURE, MR. WILSON, BUT I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE IN THE BOAT HOUSE AS I SNAPPED THAT LAST PICTURE!
IMPOSSIBLE, PETE--IN THAT BLAZE! NO--WAIT A MINUTE...
RACING TO THE DOCK'S EDGE, STEVE MAKES A DARING LEAP...
THERE WAS SOMEBODY LEFT BEHIND! MORGAN!
AS MORGAN ATTEMPTS TO DRAW A GUN, HE IS ROCKED BY THE NEWSMAN...
BAM!
IT'S ALL OVER, MORGAN!
THEN, ON THE FOLLOWING DAY AT HEADQUARTERS...
SO ME AN' THE BOYS HAPPENED TO BE AT THE BOAT HOUSE! YOU COPS STILL HAVE NOTHIN' ON ME!
WRONG, MORGAN! WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING ON YOU--INCLUDING MURDER! AND WHEN YOU SEE THAT EVIDENCE, I THINK YOU'LL CONFESS TO YOUR OTHER CRIMES!
STEVE PRODUCES A PHOTOGRAPH--TAKEN BY YOUNG PETE ELLIS AT THE SCENE OF THE BURNING BOAT HOUSE...
YOU SEE, MORGAN, A TELLTALE CAMERA CAUGHT YOU IN THE ACT OF MURDER! QUITE A NEWSWORTHY PICTURE FOR A TEENAGER, EH?
THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
...AND THAT'S IT! TODAY'S EDITION OF THE TEENAGE SECTION HAS THE HONOR OF CARRYING THE FULL STORY OF THE SMASHING OF THE MORGAN GANG! PHOTOS BY PETE ELLIS--STORY BY JIM HARRIS!
YOUR IDEA WAS A BIG SUCCESS, STEVE! IT PROVES THAT KIDS CAN DO WORTHWHILE THINGS, ONCE GIVEN A CHANCE!
NEWSBOY BRIGADE
The End

ODD NEWS ITEMS!

BEFORE 1870, NEWSPAPERS WERE NOT EQUIPPED WITH FOLDING DEVICES, OBLIGING CARRIER BOYS TO FOLD THE PAPERS THEMSELVES...

IN 1848, THE STATE OF VIRGINIA COLLECTED $355 FROM A TAX LEVIED ON NEWSPAPERS...

IN 1884, WHEN THE ***SUN*** WAS THE ONLY NEW YORK PAPER THAT REFUSED TO ACCEPT UNSOLD NEWSPAPER RETURNS, BOYS COLLECTED THE OTHER PAPERS FROM REFUSE PILES AND SOLD THEM BACK TO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS...

DURING THE GOLD RUSH DAYS OF THE LAST CENTURY, A FEW EASTERN NEWSPAPERS ISSUED SPECIAL CALIFORNIA EDITIONS TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF NEWS-HUNGRY EMIGRANTS...

THOUGH THE WAR OF 1812 ENDED ON SATURDAY, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DIDN'T LEARN THE NEWS TILL THE FOLLOWING MONDAY BECAUSE NO "EXTRAS" WERE PUBLISHED IN THOSE DAYS, AND SUNDAY EDITIONS WERE FROWNED UPON...

ADVERTISEMENT

JUNIOR SPACE PILOTS ON THE BEAM!

GIVEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

I'M IN A HURRY TO GET BACK TO OUR EARTH BASE PENNY, THE MAIL MAN'S BRINGING MY NEW CAMERA!

JUMPIN' JUPITER! YOU'RE SURE SIZZLING TH' OL' ROCKET TODAY, TED!

MAIL COUPON

Football, Pocket Watches etc

SAY! THAT CAMERA SURE IS SUPERSONIC! YOU MUST HAVE STRUCK A URANIUM LODE!

DIDN'T COST ME A DIME - I JUST GOT IT FOR SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE!

HURRY AN' GET DE-PRES-SURIZED!

Pushing Outfits, Flashlights, 1000 Shot Beety Air Rifles

ACT NOW!

HURRY

I'VE EARNED A SWELL RADIO AND A TELESCOPE TOO! IT'S EASY SELLING TO YOUR FRIENDS - AND YOU GIVE 'EM THESE SWELL ART PICTURES -

THAT'S FOR ME!

TRAINING BASE

OUTTA MY JET TRAIL, MATES - I'M MAILING THE COUPON FOR THAT BIG NEW PREMIUM CATALOG NOW!

U.S. MAIL

WE ARE RELIABLE!

Cameras, Corn Poppers, Speedball Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware, Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start

ACT NOW

Ukuleles Watches Loveable Dolls

WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE

OUR 59th YEAR

4 mirm Clocks Pen & Pencil Sets etc Mail coupon

LET'S GO!

ACT NOW

Rod-on Candid Camera with carrying cases, Telescopes, Roller Skates (sent postage paid) Mail coupon to start.

BE FIRST

Food Choppers, Carving Sets Bibles Mail coupon

LOOK!

Football Telescopes (sent postage paid) Boys' Girls' Bicycles (express charges collect)

LET'S GO!

ACT NOW!

WE TRUST YOU!

77 Cal Rifles Archery Sets, School Boxes, Wallets, Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start

Boys' Girls' Wrist Watches Baking Sets, Typewriters, Ukulele Dresser Sets Cook Books etc

ACT NOW!

MAIL COUPON! GET BIG CATALOG!

Candid Cameras with carrying case, Telescopes, Watches (sent postage paid). SIMPLY GIVE pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 35c a box (with picture). Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates Blankets Aluminum Ware Record Players Movie Machines etc. WE TRUST YOU postage pd.) Rush coupon to start

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

OUR 59th YEAR

LET'S GO!

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept 115NC Tyrone, Pa. Date

Gentlemen - Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture) I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start

NAME AGE

ST BOX

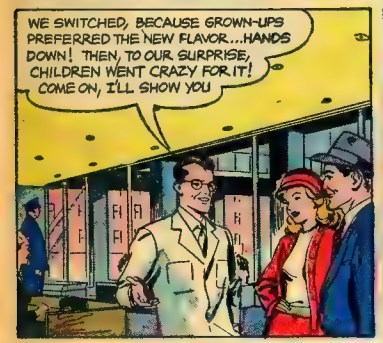
TOWN ZONE (if any) STATE

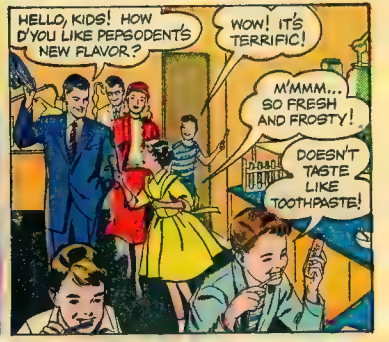
Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

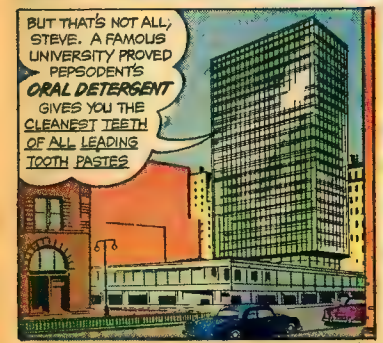
OUR 59th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL

AT HIS ILLUSTRATED PRESS OFFICE, STEVE WILSON IS CLEANING HIS TEETH WITH PEPSODENT WHEN...
HEY, LORELEI! SURPRISE, SURPRISE! THEY'VE CHANGED THE PEPSODENT FLAVOR!
I KNOW... DOESN'T IT TASTE GOOD!

WONDER WHY THEY CHANGED IT?
LET'S GO ALONG AND TALK TO THE PEPSODENT PEOPLE AND FIND OUT...THERE MIGHT BE A STORY


WE SWITCHED, BECAUSE GROWN-UPS PREFERRED THE NEW FLAVOR...HANDS DOWN! THEN, TO OUR SURPRISE, CHILDREN WENT CRAZY FOR IT! COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU

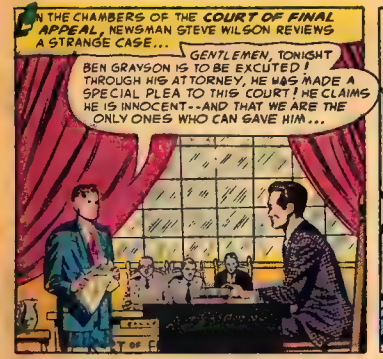

HELLO, KIDS! HOW D'YOU LIKE PEPSODENT'S NEW FLAVOR?
WOW! IT'S TERRIFIC!
M'MMM... SO FRESH AND FROSTY!
DOESN'T TASTE LIKE TOOTHPASTE!

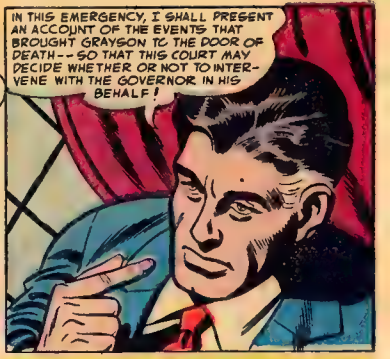

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL, STEVE. A FAMOUS UNIVERSITY PROVED PEPSODENT'S ORAL DETERGENT GIVES YOU THE CLEANEST TEETH OF ALL LEADING TOOTH PASTES

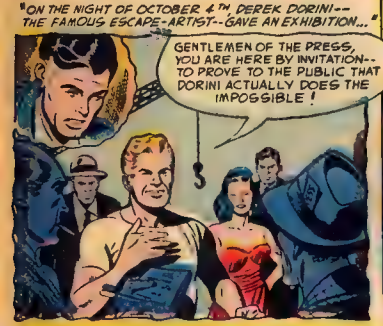
THAT'S VERY INTERESTING. CAN WE PROVE IT FOR OURSELVES?
YES! YOUR OWN PROOF IS A CLEAN MOUTH TASTE FOR HOURS! AND WE GUARANTEE PEPSODENT TO PLEASE YOU... OR YOUR MONEY BACK
Pepsodent

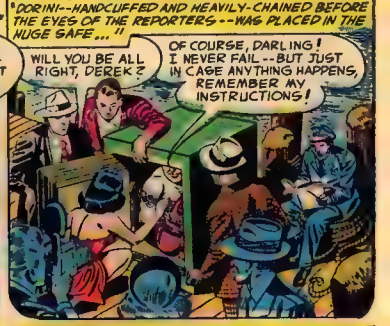
BIG TOWN

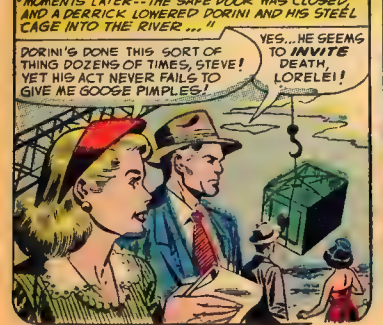
DORINI
WORLD-FAMOUS
ESCAPE ARTIST!
IN A FEW MOMENTS, I SHALL PROVE TO YOU, GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, THAT THE ACCUSED MURDERER, BEN GRAYSON -- IS INNOCENT!
THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL HAS NO OFFICIAL STANDING -- NO PRISONER HAS EVER BEEN TRIED BEFORE IT -- AND YET IT IS A BULWARK OF JUSTICE!
FOR THIS VOLUNTEER GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN BIG TOWN -- INCLUDING STEVE WILSON, ACE NEWSMAN OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS -- INTEREGTS ITGELF ONLY IN THOSE RARE CASES WHERE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE LAW MAY POGGIBLY HAVE ERRED! AS IN THE FASCINATING TALE OF...
THE MAN WHO CHEATED DEATH!

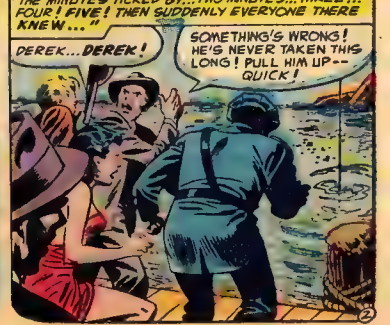

IN THE CHAMBERS OF THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, NEWSMAN STEVE WILSON REVIEWS A STRANGE CASE...
GENTLEMEN, TONIGHT BEN GRAYSON IS TO BE EXCUTED! THROUGH HIS ATTORNEY, HE WAS MADE A SPECIAL PLEA TO THIS COURT! HE CLAIMS HE IS INNOCENT--AND THAT WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN SAVE HIM...

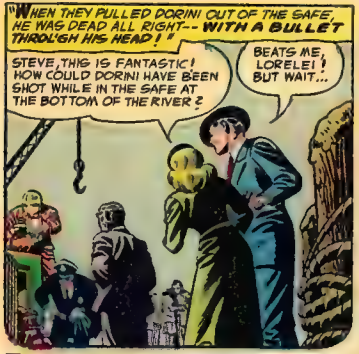

IN THIS EMERGENCY, I SHALL PRESENT AN ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS THAT BROUGHT GRAYSON TO THE DOOR OF DEATH--SO THAT THIS COURT MAY DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO INTERVENE WITH THE GOVERNOR IN HIS BEHALF!

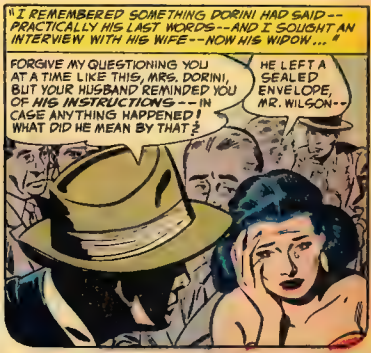

"ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 4TH, DEREK DORINI--THE FAMOUS ESCAPE-ARTIST--GAVE AN EXHIBITION..."
GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, YOU ARE HERE BY INVITATION--TO PROVE TO THE PUBLIC THAT DORINI ACTUALLY DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE!


"DORINI--HANDCUFFED AND HEAVILY-CHAINED BEFORE THE EYES OF THE REPORTERS--WAS PLACED IN THE HUGE SAFE..."
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, DEREK?
OF COURSE, DARLING! I NEVER FAIL--BUT JUST IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS, REMEMBER MY INSTRUCTIONS!

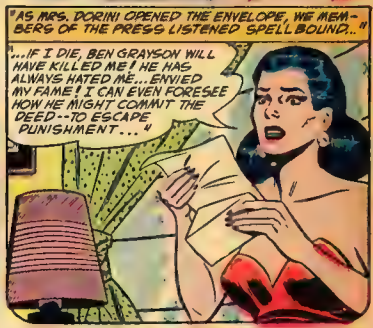

"MOMENTS LATER--THE SAFE DOOR WAS CLOSED, AND A DERRICK LOWERED DORINI AND HIS STEEL CAGE INTO THE RIVER..."
DORINI'S DONE THIS SORT OF THING DOZENS OF TIMES, STEVE! YET HIS ACT NEVER FAILS TO GIVE ME GOOSE PIMPLES!
YES...HE SEEMS TO INVITE DEATH, LORELEI!


"THE MINUTES TICKED BY...TWO MINUTES...THREE...FOUR! FIVE! THEN SUDDENLY EVERYONE THERE KNEW..."
DEREK...DEREK!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE'S NEVER TAKEN THIS LONG! PULL HIM UP--QUICK!

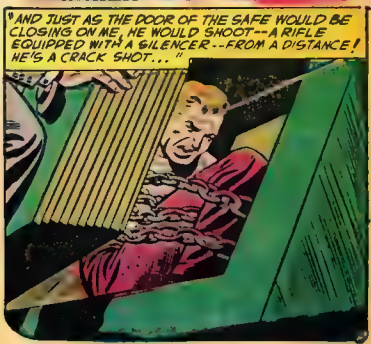

"WHEN THEY PULLED DORINI OUT OF THE SAFE, HE WAS DEAD ALL RIGHT-- WITH A BULLET THROUGH HIS HEAD!"
STEVE, THIS IS FANTASTIC! HOW COULD DORINI HAVE BEEN SHOT WHILE IN THE SAFE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER?
BEATS ME, LORELEI! BUT WAIT...

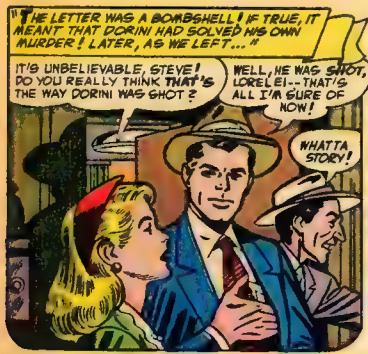

"I REMEMBERED SOMETHING DORINI HAD SAID-- PRACTICALLY HIS LAST WORDS--AND I SOUGHT AN INTERVIEW WITH HIS WIFE--NOW HIS WIDOW..."
FORGIVE MY QUESTIONING YOU AT A TIME LIKE THIS, MRS. DORINI, BUT YOUR HUSBAND REMINDED YOU OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS--IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENED! WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?
HE LEFT A SEALED ENVELOPE, MR. WILSON--

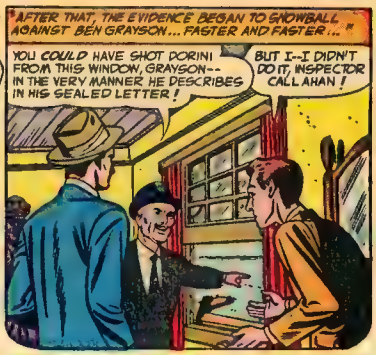
--MARKED ONLY TO BE OPENED IN CASE OF HIS DEATH. IT'S AT OUR APARTMENT--LOCKED IN HIS DESK!
LET'S GO, MRS. DORINI! WE'D BETTER READ WHAT'S IN THAT ENVELOPE!
FREE PARKIN

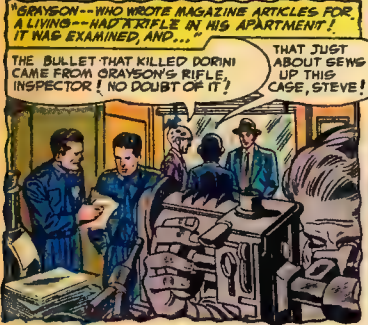

"AS MRS. DORINI OPENED THE ENVELOPE, WE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS LISTENED SPELLBOUND..."
"...IF I DIE, BEN GRAYSON WILL HAVE KILLED ME! HE HAS ALWAYS HATED ME...ENVIED MY FAME! I CAN EVEN FORESEE HOW HE MIGHT COMMIT THE CRIME--TO ESCAPE PUNISHMENT..."

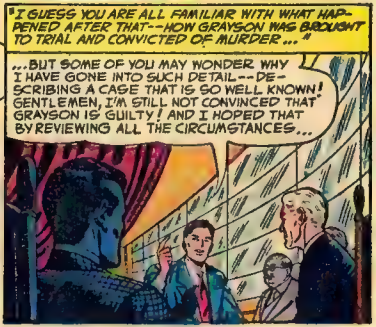
"I KNOW GRAYSON'S MIND WITH ITS SINISTER CUNNING! HE WOULD WAIT FOR ME TO GIVE ONE OF MY MORE DIFFICULT EXHIBITIONS--LIKE THE ONE IN WHICH I GET OUT OF A SAFE UNDER THE RIVER..."


"AND JUST AS THE DOOR OF THE SAFE WOULD BE CLOSING ON ME, HE WOULD SHOOT--A RIFLE EQUIPPED WITH A SILENCER--FROM A DISTANCE! HE'S A CRACK SHOT..."

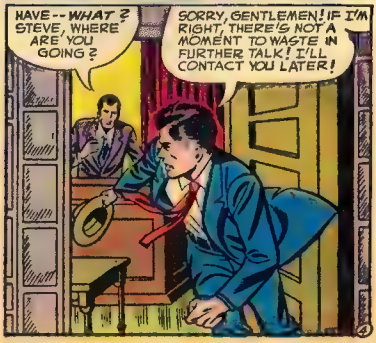

"THE LETTER WAS A BOMBSHELL! IF TRUE, IT MEANT THAT DORINI HAD SOLVED HIS OWN MURDER! LATER, AS WE LEFT... "
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, STEVE! DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S THE WAY DORINI WAS SHOT?
WELL, HE WAS SHOT, LORELEI--THAT'S ALL I'M SURE OF NOW!
WHATTA STORY!


"AFTER THAT, THE EVIDENCE BEGAN TO SNOWBALL AGAINST BEN GRAYSON... FASTER AND FASTER... "
YOU COULD HAVE SHOT DORINI FROM THIS WINDOW, GRAYSON--IN THE VERY MANNER HE DESCRIBES IN HIS SEALED LETTER!
BUT I--I DIDN'T DO IT, INSPECTOR CALL AHAN!


"GRAYSON--WHO WROTE MAGAZINE ARTICLES FOR A LIVING--HAD A RIFLE IN HIS APARTMENT! IT WAS EXAMINED, AND... "
THE BULLET THAT KILLED DORINI CAME FROM GRAYSON'S RIFLE, INSPECTOR! NO DOUBT OF IT!
THAT JUST ABOUT SEWS UP THIS CASE, STEVE!

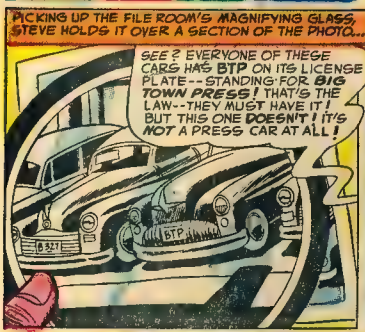

"I GUESS YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT--HOW GRAYSON WAS BROUGHT TO TRIAL AND CONVICTED OF MURDER... "
...BUT SOME OF YOU MAY WONDER WHY I HAVE GONE INTO SUCH DETAIL--DESCRIBING A CASE THAT IS SO WELL KNOWN! GENTLEMEN, I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT GRAYSON IS GUILTY! AND I HOPED THAT BY REVIEWING ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES...

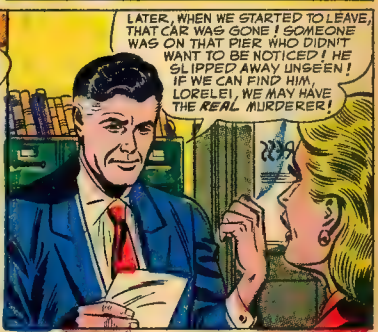
...SURROUNDING THE CRIME, I MIGHT SEE IT IN A FRESH LIGHT--AND PERHAPS RECALL SOMETHING THAT I AT FIRST OVERLOOKED--SOMETHING LIKE--UHHH--WAIT A SECOND--I HAVE IT!


HAVE--WHAT? STEVE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SORRY, GENTLEMEN! IF I'M RIGHT, THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO WASTE IN FURTHER TALK! I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER!

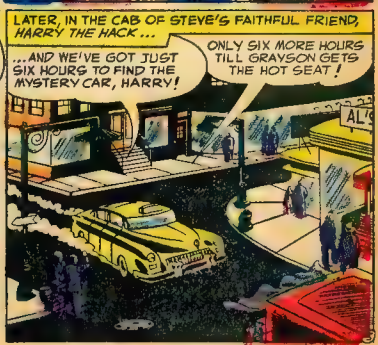
SOON AFTER, AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS.
HERE'S OUR FILE OF PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE DORINI KILLING, STEVE!
AND THIS IS THE PICTURE I WANT! LOOK--

THIS SHOT WAS TAKEN JUST BEFORE DORINI GOT INTO THE SAFE! IT SHOWS FIVE PRESS CARS--ALL WITH PRESS CARDS IN THEIR WINDSHIELDS! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT ONE OF THESE CARS--AS I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED AND REALIZED!

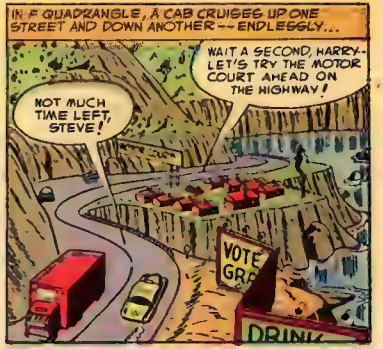

PICKING UP THE FILE ROOM'S MAGNIFYING GLASS, STEVE HOLDS IT OVER A SECTION OF THE PHOTO...
SEE? EVERYONE OF THESE CARS HAS BTP ON ITS LICENSE PLATE--STANDING FOR BIG TOWN PRESS! THAT'S THE LAW--THEY MUST HAVE IT! BUT THIS ONE DOESN'T! IT'S NOT A PRESS CAR AT ALL!
BTP

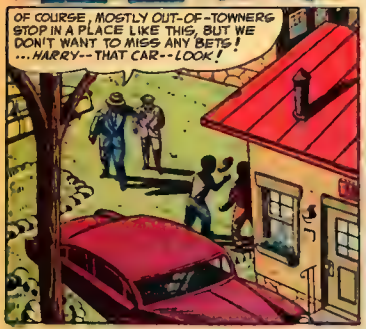

LATER, WHEN WE STARTED TO LEAVE, THAT CAR WAS GONE! SOMEONE WAS ON THAT PIER WHO DIDN'T WANT TO BE NOTICED! HE SLIPPED AWAY UNSEEN! IF WE CAN FIND HIM, LORELEI, WE MAY HAVE THE REAL MURDERER!

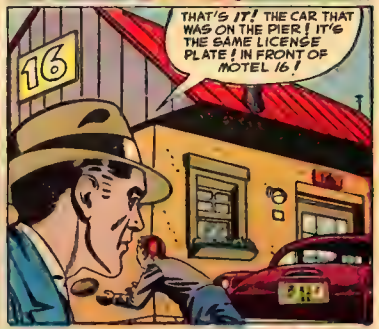
SWIFTLY, THE CRACK NEWSHAWK GETS INSPECTOR CALLAHAN ON THE PHONE...
I'M SENDING THIS PHOTO OVER TO YOU AT ONCE, INSPECTOR!
GOOD! IT MAY BE AN IMPORTANT CLUE! WE'LL START A CITY-WIDE SEARCH FOR THAT CAR!


LATER, IN THE CAB OF STEVE'S FAITHFUL FRIEND, HARRY THE HACK...
...AND WE'VE GOT JUST SIX HOURS TO FIND THE MYSTERY CAR, HARRY!
ONLY SIX MORE HOURS TILL GRAYSON GETS THE HOT SEAT!

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, A COORDINATED PLAN FOR THE SEARCH IS MAPPED OUT...
STEVE AND HARRY THE HACK ARE TAK NG F QUADRANGLE WHERE ROAD 200 ENTERS TOWN... PATROL CAR 16 WILL TAKE G QUADRANGLE -- RADIO THEM AT ONCE, SERGEANT!
F
G

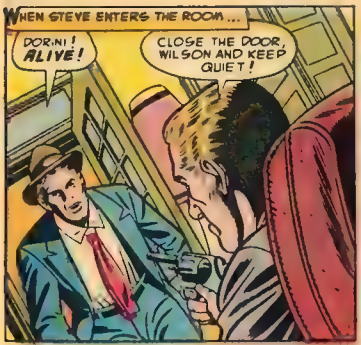

IN F QUADRANGLE, A CAB CRUISES UP ONE STREET AND DOWN ANOTHER -- ENDLESSLY...
WAIT A SECOND, HARRY-- LET'S TRY THE MOTOR COURT AHEAD ON THE HIGHWAY!
NOT MUCH TIME LEFT, STEVE!
VOTE
DRINK


OF COURSE, MOSTLY OUT-OF-TOWNERS STOP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY BETS! ...HARRY--THAT CAR--LOOK!

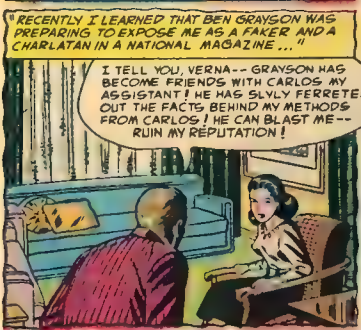

16
THAT'S IT! THE CAR THAT WAS ON THE PIER! IT'S THE SAME LICENSE PLATE! IN FRONT OF MOTEL 16!

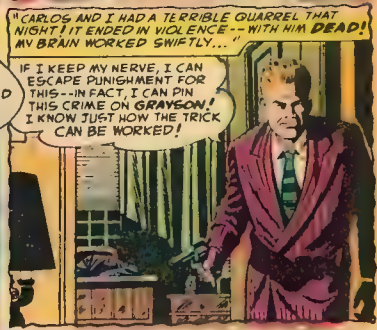
I'M GOING IN THERE, HARRY, BUT THERE MAY BE TROUBLE-- SHOOTING! SEE IF YOU CAN GET THOSE KIDS TO MOVE AWAY FROM NEAR THAT DOOR ...WITHOUT ALARMING THEM!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
957

UH--I DROPPED A HALF-- DOLLAR OVER HERE, KIDS! WHOEVER FINDS IT-- CAN KEEP IT!
GEE, GANG-- COME ON!
COME IN!

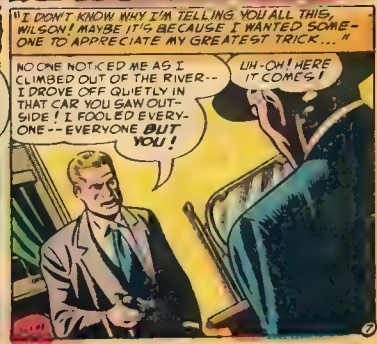

WHEN STEVE ENTERS THE ROOM...
DORN! ALIVE!
CLOSE THE DOOR, WILSON AND KEEP QUIET!

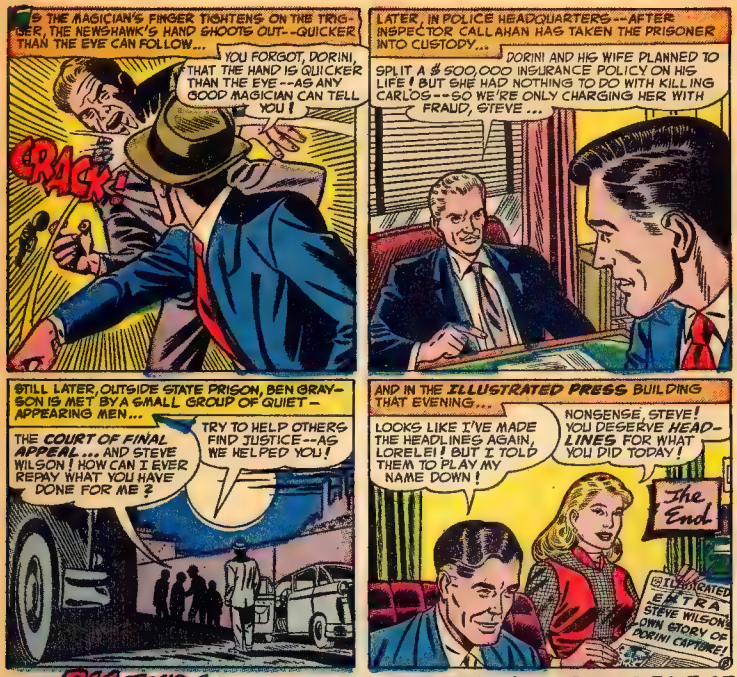
BUT YOU WERE DEAD!
NOT REALLY! BUT SINCE YOU WILL BE IN A FEW MOMENTS, WILSON--I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HARM IN EXPLAINING THE MASTERLY STRATEGY BY WHICH I CHEATED DEATH!


"RECENTLY I LEARNED THAT BEN GRAYSON WAS PREPARING TO EXPOSE ME AS A FAKER AND A CHARLATAN IN A NATIONAL MAGAZINE..."
I TELL YOU, VERNA--GRAYSON HAS BECOME FRIENDS WITH CARLOS MY ASSISTANT! HE HAS SLYLY FERRETED OUT THE FACTS BEHIND MY METHODS FROM CARLOS! HE CAN BLAST ME--RUIN MY REPUTATION!

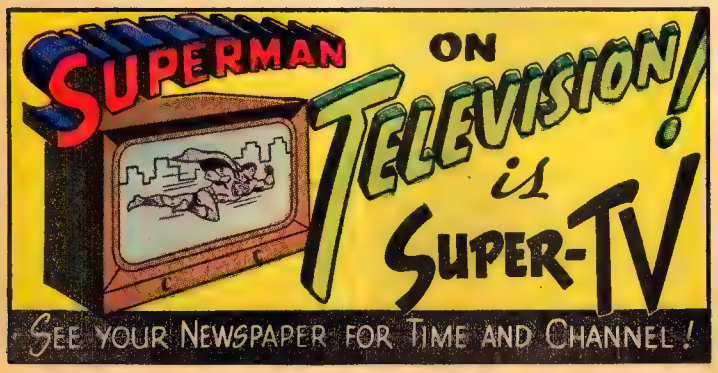

"CARLOS AND I HAD A TERRIBLE QUARREL THAT NIGHT! IT ENDED IN VIOLENCE--WITH HIM DEAD! MY BRAIN WORKED SWIFTLY..."
IF I KEEP MY NERVE, I CAN ESCAPE PUNISHMENT FOR THIS--IN FACT, I CAN PIN THIS CRIME ON GRAYSON! I KNOW JUST HOW THE TRICK CAN BE WORKED!

"CARLOS WAS ABOUT MY SIZE! I MADE HIM UP TO LOOK LIKE ME--AND PUT HIM IN A SAFE AND LOWERED IT SECRETLY INTO THE RIVER THE NIGHT BEFORE MY EXHIBITION! THE NEXT DAY, WHEN I WAS LOWERED INTO THE RIVER..."
THESE TWO SAFES ARE IDENTICAL IN APPEARANCE! NO ONE WILL EVER DREAM IT'S NOT ME DEAD IN THERE--SO THEY WON'T EVEN BOTHER TO EXAMINE THE BODY VERY CLOSELY!


"I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M TELLING YOU ALL THIS, WILSON! MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED SOMEONE TO APPRECIATE MY GREATEST TRICK..."
NO ONE NOTICED ME AS I CLIMBED OUT OF THE RIVER--I DROVE OFF QUIETLY IN THAT CAR YOU SAW OUTSIDE! I FOOLED EVERYONE--EVERYONE BUT YOU!
UH-OH! HERE IT COMES!


AS THE MAGICIAN'S FINGER TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER, THE NEWSHAWK'S HAND SHOOTS OUT--QUICKER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW...
YOU FORGOT, DORINI, THAT THE HAND IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE--AS ANY GOOD MAGICIAN CAN TELL YOU!
CRACK!
LATER, IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS--AFTER INSPECTOR CALLAHAN HAS TAKEN THE PRISONER INTO CUSTODY...
DORINI AND HIS WIFE PLANNED TO SPLIT A $500,000 INSURANCE POLICY ON HIS LIFE! BUT SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KILLING CARLOS--SO WE'RE ONLY CHARGING HER WITH FRAUD, STEVE...
STILL LATER, OUTSIDE STATE PRISON, BEN GRAYSON IS MET BY A SMALL GROUP OF QUIET-APPEARING MEN...
THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL... AND STEVE WILSON! HOW CAN I EVER REPAY WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME?
TRY TO HELP OTHERS FIND JUSTICE--AS WE HELPED YOU!
AND IN THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS BUILDING THAT EVENING...
LOOKS LIKE I'VE MADE THE HEADLINES AGAIN, LORELEI! BUT I TOLD THEM TO PLAY MY NAME DOWN!
NONSENSE, STEVE! YOU DESERVE HEADLINES FOR WHAT YOU DID TODAY!
The End
ILLUSTRATED EXTRA STEVE WILSON'S OWN STORY OF DORINI CAPTURE!

SEE BIG TOWN ON TV EVERY THURSDAY ON C.B.S., 9:30 E.S.T.



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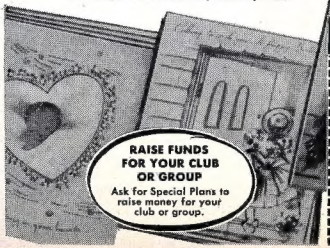

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